(c) No, Sir. Budget allocations and expenditure status in respect of DRDO for Financial Year 2007-2008 are as under:

Budget Estimate (BE)	Rs. 5887.22 Cr
Revised Estimate (RE)	Rs. 5896.81 Cr
Expenditure (Net)	Rs. 4104.40 Cr (upto January 2008)

(d) There is no serious exodus of scientists from DRDO. The present level of attrition is about 18% or so, similar to other Research & Development institutions including in IT sector. The Problem of attrition of young scientists has been addressed by making regular recruitment on annual basis through Campus interviews, Scientist Entry Test (SET), Aeronautical Research Development Board (ARDB) & Registration of Students with Scholastic Aptitude (ROSSA).

DRDO has also proposed a better pay package to Sixth Pay Commission.

Premature retirement by officers of defence services

131. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many officers in defence services are leaving the forces for better opportunity in the corporate sector;

(b) what is the present number of shortage of officers in defence services and how many have applied for premature retirement since last five years;

(c) what are the major difficulties the officers are facing, while serving in armed forces; and

(d) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken so that officers in defence service do not opt for premature retirement from the service?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) There is no large departure of officers from the defence services. The information about service-wise shortage of officers cannot be disclosed in the interest of national security.

The force-wise details of officers who have applied for premaiure retirement in last five years are as under:—

Year	Army	Navy	Air Force
2003	387	116	224
2004	414	119	246
2005	501	176	292
2006	752	259	220
2007	1130	284	287

The improvement in job profile of the defence officers is a continuous process keeping in view the job specific requirements and operational necessity.